UP TO JULY 5. 1968

3,024 U.S. aircraft were downed in North Viet Nam

VIETNAM

1968 No 172

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U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM KHE SANH

A PUBLIC ADMISSION OF U.S. STRATEGY'S FIASCO

N a communique issued in Saigon on June 27, the U.S. Command announced that its troops had begun evacuating Khe Sanh. Giai Phong Press Agency confirmed the fact and gave the first balance-sheet of enemy losses in this sector, which we in this sector, which voulished in our last issue.

Thus, the first important move taken by General Abrams as C-in-C of U.S. forces in South Viet Nam was forces in South Viet Nam was to abandon this forward post, a "western anchor to a line of forts" installed by his predecessor since mid-1966 and strung out parallel to the temporary military demarcation line, along Highway No 9. The reason given by the U.S. Command for this withdrawal was according to the U.S. Command for this withdrawal was, according to Reuter, rather simple: Khe Sanh is now underself to rot, as you like, but one could hardly forget that pathetic moeting held not long ago at his chiefs of staff to give a written pledge to hold on at all costs to this valley located in the extreme north western of the walley located in the extreme north western by of South Vist Nam.

THE LONGEST SIEGE, THE FIERCEST CONFRON-TATION OF THE WAR

THE siege of Khe Sanh by the P.L.A.F. practically began on January 20, shortly before the Tet simultaneous uprisings and general offensive. Since then, the offensive. Since then, the enemy forces had got no

breathing space in this sector. Operation Pegasus in breathing spectra of Pegasws in April involving 15,000 men, mostly G.I.'s of the First Cavalry, was but a futile effort and costly at that in terms of human lives and material damage A for some 6,000 Manage and constant under siege and constant content of the c under siege and constant threat of destruction in spi of a gigantic effort made by the U.S. artillery and air

Assailed with a deluge of steel and fire which far surpassed in intensity all wars known of by mankind thus far*, the P.L.A.F. have been displaying such combatthus far*, the P.L.A.F. have been displaying such combat-been displaying such combat-and endurance as command the admiration of even the endurance as command the admiration of even the enemy. They have succeeded in maintaining of the interpretation of the properties of combat. Wiping out enemy of combat. Wiping out enemy reserves with mortar and artillery fire, assaulting or besigging positions, cutting routes, intercepting enemy reinforcements, etc... In short, the battle of Khe Sash has been properly to the proper of the proper of the proper of the morale and value of the direction and dighting tech-nique are concerned.

From this 22 week-long duel, P.L.A.F. have come out victorious by putting out of action 15,000 enemy troops

(or 100 men per day) including 11,700 Carlo and shooting down destroying or damaging 100 pieces of artillery.

MOVING INTO KHE SANH, LIBRARY ON INDICATION OF A STRATEGY LOSS.

WESTMORE AND set up this base in Autom ESTMORUZAND set up this base in Autumn 1966 after he had been forced to put off sime die the occupation of the Mekong Delta by U.S. troops, planned for the "second dryseason of fensive." Thus the move was taken in a situation of strategic nassivity. somemove was taken in a situation of strategic passivity, something which badly affected the subsequent development of the operations in this sector, as well as in the whole area north of Quang Tri province with the bases of Cua Viget, Dong Ha, Doc Mieu, Con Tein, Hill 241 or Camp Carroll (heavy artillery base).

The U.S. Command always considered the Khe Sanh combat base the keystone

(Continued page 8)

* According to the western press, during the first 80 days of the siege, the American dropped 115,000 tons of ordinary bombs (the same amount was used against Japan during World War II) and fired 101,741 shells in direct support of their troops at Khe Sanh.

South Wet Nam

- One Week After Khe Sanh Evacuation Order, the Yankees Still Fail To Pull Out Completely and Suffer 700 Casualties.
- O A Puppet Battalion Wiped Out, Two Others Decimated North-East of Saigon.
- Biggest Bridge in Mekong Delta Blown Up.
- . O Div. Americal H.Q. Stormed.

DEEDS. Mr JOHNSON

MR Harriman was not M. R. Harriman was not present at the tenth session of the Paris talks. But it is not this absence that causes me not to address him today: there is a time for everything, a time for questions, and then a time when anxiers must come. The session of the session

Harriman, but from higher up.
I may be told that the
President of the United States
has clearly stated his intentions a long time ago and
that his will for peace has
manifested itself in many a
speech. Who doesn't remember
the famous Baltimore speech;
the object of the state of the
table of the state of the
of savage bombings on the

w.k.v.w. Dia anyone ever hear the president of a super-power speak with such mo-desty, nay such humility? He simply asked for negotiations, without any pre-conditions.

simply asked for negotiations, without any pre-conditions. He added that he was even ready to denote a billion people to the second to the sec

the peoples of the world?"
More than three years have
passed. Whose fault is it if
peace hasn't returned?

(Continued page 7)



"THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAS THE INALIENABLE RIGHT TO INTENSIFY RESISTANCE TO U.S. AGGRESSION"

- South Viet Nam N.F.L. Statement

THE Presidium of the Cen-tral Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation issued on June 26 a statement reasserting the South Vietnamese people's inalienable right to step up their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvaaggression, for national salva-tion and the liberation of South Viet Nam.

The statement reads in full as follows:

"Developing their victorious mettle and their strong position, the South Vietnam-ese people, since the Lunar New Year, have staged many simultaneous uprisings and, skilfully combining armed attacks with popular insurrections, have dealt mor-tal blows at the U.S. aggreswon very big victories, driv-ing the enemy into an ing the enemy utter predicament.

"The populations of Saigon, Cho Lon. Gia Dinh, and other urban centres, in co-ordina-tion with the patriotic armed forces, have fought vigorously and hit with great precision series of military bases and nerve centres of the enemy,

using heavy losses to them.
"In face of the danger of irremediable collapse, the U.S. aggressors and the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors have frenziedly dumped bombs, shells and gas on heavily populated areas in over 130 populated areas in over 130 towns, province capitals and townships in South Viet Nam, killing or wounding tens of thousands of civilians and rendering homeless hundreds

of thousands of others. They have caused heavy destruction to Hue, a city with many cultural and historical relics cultural and historical relics of Viet Nam, and destroyed over 30,000 dwelling houses in the Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh area. Recently, they went so far as to delineate "free bombing zones" which include large areas north and south of Saigon, thus revealing their cynical scheme to massacre civilians.

"In face of the condemnation by the Vietnamese people and the whole world's peoples, the U.S.-puppets and their propaganda machine are spreading impudent slanders, in an attempt to make black in an attempt to make black white, to put the blame on the patriotic armed forces for the losses of civilian lives in South Vietnamese towns.

"This is but a customary trick of 'thief crying stop thief' of the U.S. aggressors and their quislings.

"Everybody knows that for more than 10 years now the whole policy of the U.S. in South Viet Nam — from overt intervention to a 'special war'

all' policy. Not a single family is left without at least one member killed or wounded by their bombs, gas and extremely ruthless repression. extremely ruthless repression.
There is no denying that the
U.S. aggressors and their
lackeys are the slaughterers
of South Vietnamese people.
It is they who have been for more than 3 years now bomb-ing and strafing the Demo-cratic Republic of Viet Nam fiercely, massacring people both in the countryside and "More than ever before, the

"More than ever before, the 4 million South Vietnamese people, direct victim of the U.S. war of aggression, are duly punishing these energial of the south Viet Nam population of all strata are bringing their sacred war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for against U.S. aggression, for heavel. The South Viet Nam participation of the vietname of vietnam patriotic armed forces, the sons and daughters of the people who foster, assist and shelter them and join actions with them, are waging an extremely valiant fight, attacking the enemy in all parts of South Viet Nam, including the towns, his last hide-outs. The enemy last hide-outs. The enemy have raised clamours and concoted the fantastic story of the 'massacre of civilians' by the patriotic armed forces because they themselves have been deadly hit and are frightened by the punishing blows dealt by the people.

"It is evident that though

the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen have sustained heavy defeats, they are still stubborn and perfidious. They insolently demand that our people stop fighting against aggression, and are preparing public opinion for a fresh escalation of the war in both zones of our country and creating obstacles to the Paris talks between the D.R.V.N. and the U.S.

"The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation
one again affirms that since
none again affirms that since
has been added to the since
the since of the since of the
people, the latter must resist
them and drive them out
them and drive them out
them and drive them out
and the since of the since
pendence and freedom and
save the Fatherland. It is a
sacred, inalienable right to
self-defence of the Vietnamos
self-defence of the Vietnamos self-defence of the Vietnamese people. As long as the U.S. continues its aggression, the Vietnamese people will carry on their fight.

"The U.S. must stop its withdraw all aggression, withdraw all troops of its own and its satellites from South Viet Nam and leave the South Nam and leave the South Vietnamese people to settle themselves their internal affairs in accordance with the Political Programme of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, without foreign interference. The U.S. must stop completely and permanently the bombing and other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. and has no right to

"The just cause of the Vietnamese people which is en-joying sympathy and support from progressive mankind will

ON July 1, the Foreign Ministry of the Demo-cratic Republic of Viet Nam also issued a statement "sternly condemning and strongly denouncing to world opinion the crimes committed opinion the crimes committee by the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen against the South Vietnamese people as well as the entire people of Viet Nam."

It stressed: "The Govern-

ment of the D.R.V.N. fully supports the June 26, 1968 statement by the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation asserting the South Vietnamese people's imprescriptible right to step up their fight against U.S. aggression, for the liberation of South Viet Nam. Under the Front's banner, and with considerable assistance of our countrymen throughout the country and of our friends in all contin-ents, the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, promotting to the fullest their winning and strong position, will be undoubtedly able to inflict on the U.S. aggressors and the puppets fresh fatal blows, and lead the revolution for libration of South Viet Nam to total victory." of our friends in all contin-

PARIS TALKS' ELEVENTH SESSION

THE II th session of the official conversations between the re-presentative of the D.R.V.N. Government and that of the U.S. Government was held in Paris on July 3, 1968.

Minister Xuan Thuy spoke first. He pointed out that the U.S. side which was waiting obdurately for "an appropriate time and circumstance" cease the U.S. bombings of the D.R.V.N., in fact kept setting conditions for a bombing halt - a legitimate demand of the Vietnamese people and public opinion.

He pointed to the absurdity and deceitfulness of Mr Johnson's March ne cessation of bombing "would endanger the lives of our men." The above American allegation, Mr. Xuan Thuy stressed, is aimed at sidetracking the struggle of the American soldiers, youths and other people now opposing the U.S. dirty war in

In connection with U.S. Independence Day (July 4), Mr. Xuan Thuy said that it is the U.S. aggressors who have betrayed the famous Declaration of Independence of the U.S. nearly 200 years ago, which says that all men are created equal and that among their inalienable rights, are the rights to live, to be free and to enjoy happiness.

Rushing headlong into the costly war in Viet Nam, the U.S. aggressors and war-maniacs have directly and indirectly mobilized 75 per cent of ground forces, 60 per cent of tactical air force, an important part of the strategic air force and 60 per cent of the U.S. Navy, and so on. They have squandered annually over 30 billion dollars, causing to the U.S. great difficulties in finance and currency difficulties in linance and currency the serious consequences of which are affecting the daily life of the American people. Hundreds of thousands of American youths have been pushed into an unlamented and useless death in Viet Nam; the American people have to pay heavy taxes and bear high living costs, more and more families have lost their husbands, sons and brothers in the unjust war launched

In this war, the U.S. aggressors and losses. All their up-to-date war means have proved ineffective in face of the unflagging struggle of the entire Vietnamese people. On the other hand, the U.S. aggressive war has impaired more seriously than ever before the position and prestige of the U.S. in the international arena.

Mr. Xuan Thuy mentioned the growing movement of the American people of all strata against the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam. Dr. Ben-

jamin Spock, one of the leaders of that movement, was sentenced by the U.S. ruling circles for his opposithe U.S. ruling circles for his opposi-tion to the U.S. war in Viet Nam. He has said: "The Vietnamese people have done no harm to the United States. What they have done is only States. What they have done is only to defend their country and to oppose the unjustifiable massacre by our troops and air force. The American people would do the same if any country on the other hemisphere wanted to impose a puppet govern-ment upon them."

"With regard to the American pilots who have flown raids on the D.R.V.N.", declared Mr. Xuan Thuy, "we consider them as authors of serious crimes caught red-handed But our government's policy toward them is humanitarian."

Mr. Xuan Thuy concluded: "The U.S. must stop its war of aggression against Viet Nam. This is the essential thing to save American youths from death and to extricate the U.S. from its predicament. This is also the essential thing to save the honour of the U.S., a country with a glorious history in its past struggle for national liberation. Such a step fully conforms to the interests of the Vietnamese and the American peoples and to the in-terests of world peace. That is why, once again, I call on the U.S. government, on the U.S. representative present here to take a realistic view

and a realistic move, namely to stop aggression against Viet Nam, with-draw the U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and let the Vietnamese people settle themselves their internal affairs without foreign interference. First and foremost, the U.S. must stop at once and un-conditionally its bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N., so that other problems of concern to both parties can be discussed thereafter.

Speaking next, Mr Averell Harriman

began by thanking the D.R.V.N. Government for its recent decision to release three U.S. pilots. He then repeated the worn out allegations that the U.S. is "prepared to cease bombardment at the appropriate time and circumstance," that "North Viet Nam commits aggression against South Viet Nam," that "North Viet Nam distorts and violates the Geneva Accords of 1954," that the D.R.V.N. Government's represen-tative comes to Paris for "attempts at propaganda" and so on and so forth. He held on to the so-called Manila statement, pleading for the U.S. attempt to pursue the aggressive war against Viet Nam, carry out its design to turn South Viet Nam into an aggressive military base and a new-type colony of the U.S. and to continue its criminal bombing of the D.R.V.N.

All these absurd allegations of the U.S. government's representative were sternly refuted by Mr. Xuan Thuy who declared: "It would take long to reach a peaceful solution of the Viet Nam question if the U.S. kept ringing the changes,"

VIET NAM COURIER

THE NORTH—GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

SINCE the U.S. escalation started three years ago, many American friends have visited Hanoi, defying a State Department's edict other, uninvited American visitors—the U.S.A.F. pilots who came and rained death and mournings over our

"Hanoi itself, though fully prepared for battle, did not appear agitated or mobilized so much as it seemed to so much as it seemed to be enjoying the fruits of peace. Only an occasional soldier was visible, and infrequently a truck full of armed men or supplies would rumble down the pavement.

"The Little Lake in the

As Seen by Americans Steller presented in Series (and the series of the

people and finally lost their lives or are enjoying their "R and R" in our Hilton

Among the first American friends who came to Hanoi in December 1965 were Herbert Aptheker, Staughton Lynd and Thomas Hayden. Back home, Staughton Lynd, Professor of History at Yale, and Thomas Hayden, founder of S.D.S., wrote The Other Side, a book by the first American private individuals to have seen North Viet Nam in war.

Here is how Hanoi is seen in their book:

in Bzief

 Up to mid June 1968, in the Nung ethnical minority region, Quang Ninh province, ore than 200 workers' groups plan from 15 to 50 days ahead

• In 11 coastal villages of Hau Loc district, Thanh Hoa province, where the improve-ment of sandy soil is under-way, the sweet potato crop recorded an increase of 1.2 tons per hectare compared with last year.

• In 1967, salt production exceeded the 1966 figure by 9 per cent. Thanks to an increased specialization of work and utilization of improved implements, the roo-ton hectare target has been surpassed in a great number of salt-producing co-opera-tives. Tan Thinh co-op in Nghe An province produced 192 tons of salt per hectare on the average,

. Up to now Dai Tu district, Bac Thai province (Bac Bo mountain regions), 140 classes of complementary and technical courses have been run for youths of various national minorities. 80 per cent of youths in the district attend these courses.

• 96.3 per cent of villages in Quang Ninh province (min-ing region along Bac Bo seacoast) have got each their own. infirmary - maternity

center of Hanoi is ringed by cement-and-dirt bomb shelters where in the past flower gardens have bloomed. Most of the city's children are evacuated to safer provinces where they can continue school. But those remaining can be seen at play in the sand atop the shelters, run-ning and shouting inside of

"The theaters show nu merous films and dramas about the war and its about the war and its heroes, and people come in throngs to the shows each night. The war, however, cannot fully militarise art. In the streets of Hanoi, and on the radios there as well, we constantly heard poetry and music of all kinds. It is virtually the dominant sound, accompanied by the clicking of bicycle chains, women's wooden heels, and the soft chatter of voices, interrupted by occasional honks or the rattle of a two-car trolley.

which under French rule was

barred to Vietnamese.

"It could be said that such patterns are escapist. As we felt the atmosphere of Hanoi, we recalled the studies of irrational normality' of Europeans being bombed for the first time in World War II. But it seemed to us that the Vietnamese do not avoid the fact of American attack: too many of them wear rifles as they farm. Rather, they are so conditioned to war since 1940, against Japanese, French, and Americans—that it no longer takes priority over civilian life. There is no national emergency which can fully erase the fact that shopping must be done, the fields tended, and young couples married."

BY the end of 1966, I met Russell Stetler, former chairman of the May 2nd Movement, an anti-war organization of American students, during his visit to Hanoi. He was too busy with his contribution to Lord his contribution to Lord Bertrand Russell's Tribunal of War Crime. He missed the opportunity to see the whole country. He liked to stroll on the Road of the Youth to watch the sunset on the West

Lake and young lovers walking hand in hand. He "wished to provide informa-tion that will enable the American public to debate the issue of Viet Nam intelli-gently." He would like to make the youth know much better about U.S. crimes against the Vietnamese. He did report to them that life was going on in Hanoi:
"Young Americans will not
go to Viet Nam fighting
young Vietnamese if they there, as he would never enlist to fight his Vietnamese

DR Horace Champney, a retired professor from Yellow Spring (Ohio), and Dr Earle Reynolds, a genetist, are two among many American friends who wished to bring their family Hanoi to "share" with us the danger of U.S. air raids. Once, as Earle Reynolds was once, as Earle Reynolds was giving a talk on his favorite subject—peace, U.S. jets roared past over the city at roof-top height. He ran out of the shelter to look and when he came back he shrug-gled: "It's ours." Dr Horace Champney said: "If I was given a rifle I should fire at

Are they communists? No, they are pacifist Quakers who sailed on the ketch Phoenix with medical supplies contributed by American and Canadian citizens for the embattled people of Viet Nam. I accompanied them in their wanderings about the populated quarters of the city.
They asked me to introduce
them to the men in the street
as "American friends." Eventually a soldier came up and talked to them, a newly married couple who were tak-ing photo offered them a rose, a mother put her baby's tiny hand in their hands. Ou American friends highly appreciated such a fine ges-ture of the common people in a city at war with the United States. Indeed the Hanoi people have responded to bombs with bullets and to the call of hearts with their own hearts' voice.

EARLY in February 1968, Fr. Daniel Berrigan, S.J. and Prof. Howard Zinn came to Hanoi to be handed over three American captured pilots "feleased by Vietnamese military author-ities during the Lunar New ities during the Lunar New Year. Here is what Fr. Berrigan saw in our city:

"...And so we went across the river and into the suburbs. There I could see very clearly under a full moon large areas of devastation, most of which seemed to be residential.

"Hanoi is half evacuated There are no children and no old people. It is not a black-out city, but it is operating at about half its electrica power.

"Practically no schooling is going on in the city.

AFRICAN COUNTRIES RESOLUTELY SUPPORT OUR STRUGGLE AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION

VICE MINISTER for Foreign Affairs Hoang Van Loi, envoy of the D.R.V.N. Government has returned to Hanoi after a visit to the Algerian Democratic and People's Republic the Republic of Mali, the Republic of Congo (B), the Republic of Guinea, the United Arab Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the United Republic of Tanzania.

During his tour Hoang Van Loi was accorded a warm welcome by the governments and peoples of the host countries and a cordial reception by their Presidents, Premiers and other leaders.

The D.R.V.N. Government envoy posted them up about the Vietnamese people's patriotic fight, the positions of the D.R.V.N. Government and the South Viet Nam N.F.L. on the settlement of the Viet Nam problem. The Presidents and other leaders of these friendly countries of these friendly countries severely condemned the U.S. imperialists' aggression and crimes against the Vietnamese people in both zones, their obduracy and perfidy at the current conversations in Paris. They highly appreciat-ed the great contributions of the Vietnamese people to the cause of national liberation of

the Asian, African and Latin American peoples and the defence of world peace. They warmly welcomed the victo ries recorded by the South Vietnamese people since early this year and expressed the conviction that the Vietnam ese people would win and the U.S. imperialists would be defeated.

Many Heads of State and other leaders of these friendly countries declared their unconditional support for the Vietnamese people's struggle till complete victory and their full support of the four points of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Political Program of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. as well as the correct stand and serious attitude of the D.R.V.N. Government at the Paris talks. They demand ed that the U.S. stop unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. They expressed their profound admiration for President Ho Chi Minh and conveyed to him their wishes of good health and longevity

Hoang Van Loi extended to the Governments and peo-ples of the countries visited the sincere thanks of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Viet Nam people for their

" Practically all medical care from the delivery of children to the care of war victims May 26, 1068:

is now carried on in bunkers. "The churches are open. Hanoi, of course, is not a great Catholic center. But the Cathedral is open. Both morning and evening Mass is held there. The priests seem to disperse during the where most of the people are, and then they return for Sunday Mass.

"The atmosphere of the city - from the Premier, whom we interviewed, down to the people who served in the kitchen and cleaned our hotel rooms -- is one of confidence and cheerfulness. From the look on the face of thousands, you get the impression of people who are going to make it, and are making it." (in America, March 9, 1968).

ARY McCarthy, the distinguished Amer-ican novelist who last year published a book on South Viet Nam, recently visited our North Viet Nam. She is now one of the few Western writers to have seen the war from both sides. Here are some excerpts from her report published in Sunday

Times - Weekly Review -

"Growth statistics, offered everywhere, on bicycle - own ership, irrigation, rice harvests. maternity clinics, literacy are the answer to the 'was of destruction' which began on February 7, 1965, a bomber oak putting out new leaves is a 'reply' to the Air Force and the Seventh Fleet. All communist countries are bent on furnishing growth statistics (it is their form of advertising), but with Hanoi this is something special, carrying a secondary meaning-defiance

"On a big billboard in the city centre, the number of U.S. planes shot down is revised forward daily in red paint - 2818, they claimed when I left, and the number keeps growing. In villages the score is kept on a blackboard.

"Everything they build is dated, down to the family wells in a hamlet — a means of visibly recording progress, like pencilling the heights of children, with the dates opposite, on a door. And each date has a clear significance 1965 or 1966, stamped on a well, proclaims that it was built in spite of pirates."

S.P.

3.000 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN NORTH VIET NAM



Conventional A.A. Defence (a Haiphong unit)

Those Who Helped Toward the 3,000-Mark

People's Navy (artillery of an elite unit)







People's Militia (a unit of militia women in . Ha Tinh province)

Surface-to-air missiles

flying missions. As the wes-

DOWNED

• 1 model of strategic bomber: B. 52 Stratofortress. • 1 model of tactical bom-ber: B. 57 Canberra.

47 MODELS OF

U.S. AIRCRAFT

• 17 models of fighter-bombers and 8 of fighters well-known for their high performances: F. 4 Phantom, F. 105 Thunderchief, A.6 Intruder, A.4 Skyhawk, F.8 Crusader, and the famous "variable geometry" F.111-A.

a 13 models of reconnais ice planes including RB.66 Destroyer, equipped with ex-

ments, and 2 robot spy planes. e 4 models of survey and patrol planes of U.S. Navv including the electronic for engine EC.121 Warning Star

• 2 models of transports. 3 models of helicopters including the QH.50A pilotless jet spy helicopter.



A WAR THAT **SWALLOWS UP DOLLARS**

U.S. aggression against Viet Nam is known as the most expensive war ever fought by the U.S. The air war brazenly waged against the D.R.V.N. since August 5, 1964 accounts for an important part of the

hill tooted by the Pentagon. Hereunder are some figures supplied by the U.S. organs concerned and the American

P to June 25, 1968, after against North Viet Nam. the U.S. air force lost 3,000 planes, most of them up-todate jets, or an average loss of 2 aircraft per day for four years running. Topping by far the list of these 3,000 planes downed are F.105 Thunderchiefs and Phantoms which respectively cost 1.5 million and 2 million dollars each. The night-bomber, A.6

Intruder, grounded by the do-

by infantry fire) costs 3 mil-lion apiece and an RB.66 tern press says, a pilot "is worth his weight in gold" Destroyer electronic recon-naissance plane, 6 million. The and to be rated as a jet pilot he must fly at least 600 hours most expensive are the Stra-tofortress B.52, a big 8-turbo-(one hour consumes 1,000 litres of fuel). The training prop strategic bomber of the U.S.A.F. which costs 9.5 milof a pilot capable of flying all-weather missions requires lion dollars (6 of which have been downed in the D.R.V.N.), eight years and costs 773,000 dollars on the average. and the F.III-A variable geometry swing-wing fighter-bomber, the most up-to-date

zen in the D.R.V.N. (mostly

THE price of each ton of bomb is 2,000 dollars, that of a 15-rocket container 1,050 dollars and a flare 75 dollars.

Because of the shortage of American plane which costs million dollars (3 of which have been shot down by North Viet Nam). bombs, the U.S. imperialists had to repurchase from West Germany at 21 dollars each of the lot they had sold

THE U.S. has lost in North Viet Nam thousands of airmen captured, killed, at 1.72 dollars each, or 12 times dearer. or wounded to unfitness for

As by December 106 U.S. planes had used in Viet Nam 650,000 tons of bombs, this represents a handsome sum of 1.3 billion dollars.

ROGER HILSMAN, former Assistant Secretary of State in charge of Far-Eastern Affairs, revealed on March 26, 1968 that the bombing of North Viet Nam had swallowed up 6 billion dollars, including 4-5 billion worth of planes lost. That is, of course, a very conservative estimate.

So many billion dollars supplied by American taxpayers have gone down the drain, such has been the achievement of Johnson and Company.

VIET NAM COURIER

3,000 U.S. AIRCRAFT DOWNED IN NORTH VIET NAM

SCORE-BOARD OF NORTH VIET NAM ANTI-AIRCRAFT DEFENCE VERSUS U.S. AIR FORCE

U.S. Annual loss of aircraft since the first air raids on the D.R.V.N. :

12 in 1964 (since August 5) 834 in 1965 773 in 1966

773 in 1966 1067 in 1967 332 in 1968 (first six months) Total: 3018 (up to June 30,1968) U.S. heaviest monthly

D.S. newrost
losses: April 1965; 163 planes
downed.
May 1967; 160
October 1967; 131
November 1967; 131
August 1967; 116
September 1967; 110
Cutober 1965; 109
Cutober 1965; 109
Cutober 1965; 109
Hayst 1966; 109
Hayst 1967; 109
Hayst 1967;

able daily losses:
August 5, 1964: surprise attacks on 4 localities in the D. R. V. N., beginning of escalation: 8 planes downed.
February 7, 1965: beginning of regular raids: 4 planes

of regular raids: 4 planes downed over Dong Hoi (latitude 17°20' N.) April 3 and 4 = 1055: 57 planes downed including 37 over two big bridges near the 20th parallel reached by U.S. escalation toward the end of May, June 29, 1965: First raids

on urban areas of Hanoi and Haiphong: 7 planes downed.

December 13 and 14, 1966:
12 planes downed by Hanoi A.A. Defence.

December 20, 1967: 2 B.52

strategic bombers downed over Vinh Linh (17th parallel).

March 28, 1968: The first F.111-A swing wing plane

downed in Ha Tinh province three days after the commis-sioning of the first esquadron of this type of planes. Two days later, a second one was downed west of Hanoi Achievements of various

arms:
- Conventional A.A. De-Conventional A.A. Defence has had its lion's share in the downing of the 3,000 planes. Its most remarkable months and battles were:
 153 planes downed in April

1965. 86 planes downed in Septem-

82 planes downed in August

1966. 87 planes downed in May

12 planes downed over Haiphong on April 25, 1967.
10 planes downed over Hanoi on May 19, 1967.
5 planes downed within 2 minutes on October 17, 1967 over Bac Glang.
4 planes downed over Con Co Island (17th parallel) on May 31, 1967 over Bac Glang.

 Surface-to-air missile units have made great progress. The number of American planes grounded by this nascent arm of the People's Armed Forces in 1967 doubled that of 1966 which reached the hundreds. The most memorable months and days

39 planes downed in May 35 planes downed in Octo-

er 1967. 27 planes downed in July

1966. 27 planes downed in Noember 1967. 8 planes downed on No-

ber 1965. 84 planes downed in July and days were:

May 1967: 23 U.S. planes

September 1067: 12 U.S. planes downed.
November 1067: 11 U.S. planes downed.
Dura di force won its first victory on April 3, 1965 by downing B.F.83 near the downing B.F.83 near the planes on each of the days: April 30 and May 5, 1967, 4 planes (including that of U.S.A.F. Colonel Norman

bridge over which 47 Amer-ican planes were downed on

wember 19, 1967.
7 planes downed on each of the days: October 5, 1965, July 19, 1966 and October 27, The People's Air Force

— The People's Air Forse has to its credit several hundred enemy planes down-ed, often in unequal dog fights. In 1967, it grounded a number of planes double that of 1965 and 8 times that of 1965, Its most glorious months

downed. April 1967: 16 U.S. planes downed. September 1967: 12 U.S.

U.S.A.F. Colonel Norman Gaddis) on May 12, 1967 and 4 planes on each of six other days.

— The People's Navy has co-ordinated its action with ground AA batteries and has outstandingly contributed to victory, chiefly in the defence of the famous Ham Rong

HALPHONG 23 0

Abril 3 and 4, 1965. In Haiphong, our naval units brought down 4 planes on July 7, 1966 alone.

— The worker and peasant militis have up to May 31, 1968, downed with infantry wassens 244 American planes. over fifty 6 of these up-to date planes.

1968, downed with infantry weapons, 244 American planes (including 31 in night combats) made up of 18 models such as A.6 Intruder, F.4 Phantom, F.105 Thunderchief, unmanned planes and helicopters.

Young country women have downed 17 and old men

The part played by various provinces and regions in the downing of American planes is shown in the map above (up to June 28, 1968). The record is held 28, 1968). The record is neld by Quang Binh province with 472 planes downed, followed by Nghe An province (392), Thanh Hoa province (272), Hanoi (255) and Haiphong (210). Four provinces have downed between 118 and 190

190 -

HANDI 255

planes and 9 others between 50 and 100.

SOME U.S. PILOTS

Captured Before and After March 31, 1968

1 - John Peter Flynn, born 1922, Ohio, U.S.A.F. Colonel, service number 15760A, captured October 27, 1967 in Hanoi.

2 - John Sidney Mac Cain, born 1936, Panama, U.S. Navy Lieutenant-Commander, Palama, service number 624787, captured October 26, 1967 in Hanoi, 3 — Edwin Frank Miller, born 1940. New York State, Lieutenant Junior, U.S. Navy, service number 705310, pillot of a carrier Bonhomme Richard-based R.F.S, shot down by Nghe An anti-attraft force May 22, 1958.

4 - Roger Dean Ingvalson, born 1928, Minnesota, Major of U.S.A.F., FR 30713, piloting a Korat (Thailand)-based F. 105D, shot down by anti-aircraft artillery over Quang Binh May 28, 1968.

5—Richard George Tangeman, born 1940, New York State, Lieutenant, U.S. Nawy, service number 669570, pilot of a carrier Enterprise-based RASC, shot down by Ha Tinh anti-

6—Westley Lewis Rumble, born 1043, California, First Lieutenant, U.S.A.F., service number F.Y. 3153865, pilot of a Da Nang-based F4D, shot down by Quang Binh anti-aircraft force April 25, 1068.

7 - Praphan Sirion, born 1934, Udorn, warrant-officer, U.S.A.F., pilot of a Don Muong (Thailand)-based C.47, shot down by Nighe An anti-aircraft force March 26, 1966.





N.F.L. and P.L.A.F. Acclaim North Viet Nam Armed Forces and People's Victory | Armed Forces |

THE Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces have warmly hailed the downing by the North Vietnamese armed forces and people of the 3,000th U.S. aircraft over the airspace of North Viet Nam.

In a message addressed to In a message addressed to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the High Command of the Viet Nam People's Army, they said:

"Under the clearsighted leadership of the Viet Nam

Workers' Party, the D.R.V.N. Government and President Ho Chi Minh, the North Viet Nam armed forces and people have achieved brilliant exploits thanks to the Vietnamese nation's ardent patriotism, her utmost hatred for the enemy, her matchless revolutionary heroism, and her unequalled talent and wisdom, thus bringing added glory to the tradition of valiancy and dauntlessness, of our Fatherland Viet Nam."

The message recalled that for nearly 4 years now the U.S. imperialists had been frantically waging war of

Kim (hang Bong, Vice Pre-mier and Minister of National Defence of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

wrote, "For four years now the Vict Nam People's Army

and achieve the reunitication

• In Cuba, Foreign Min-ster Raul Roa declared

sors, but also their rapid gliding towards final defeat in Viet Nam.

read.

wish the Vietnamese beoble

their resistance to the criminal

• Lieutenant General Carol

Rusov, Minister of National

Defence of the Czechoslovak

their struggle against the U.S. imperialists' aggression."

of their Fatherland."

aggressive war conducted under any form and with any kind of modern means. destruction against North Viet Nam in an attempt to seek a way out from their stalemate in South Viet

The message said that with its new feat North Viet

Nam set a shining example of determination to resist

of determination to resist U.S. aggression, and further illustrated the historical

The message stressed that the South Vietnamese armed forces and people were resolved to stand side by Nam.

By shooting down 3,000
American aircraft, it added,
the North Vietnames armed
forces and people have
exploded the "U.S. air
superiority" myth, and
aggravated the current political, military and economic
crisis of the Johnson clique. side with the armed for and people of North Viet this sacred resist ance, by dashing forward in the flush of attacking continuously and rising up simultaneously to overthrow the puppet ad-ministration, to break the ministration, to break the aggressive will of the U.S. imperialists, and to wrest back total power for the

Release of Thzee U.S.Pilots

DROCEEDING from the humanitarian and lenient policy of the Government of the Democratic Re public of Viet Nam, the General Political Department of the Viet Nam People's Army has decided to release three U.S. pilots captured in North Viet Nam. Viet Nam News Agency reported on July 3, 1968.

North Viet Nam's **Great Exploit Hailed** All Over the World

HE news that North Viet Nam had downed 3,000 planes of the U.S. aggressors rejoices not only the Vietnamese people in both zones of Viet Nam but also our friends all over the

• In a message sent on June 28 last to the Viet Nam-U.S.S.R. Friendship Associa-tion, General P.F. Batov, Vice President of the USSR— Viet Nam Friendship Asso-ciation, said: "This great exploit as well as other glorious exploits achieved by the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam in the general oftensive and concerted upris since early spring this year greatly please the Soviet people... Should the U.S. people... Should the U.S. imperialists not draw the lesson of their defeat and persist in their criminal pi war against the D.R.V.N 4,000th and 5,000th and other planes would be shattered to pieces in North Viet Nam."

that the downing of the 3,000th U.S. plane indicated not only the heavy losses suffered by the U.S. aggressuffered by the U.S. ag • The message of the Minthe People's Republic of China stressed, "Under the guidance of their great leader, President Ho Chi Minh, the e The message or General Heinz Hoffman, Minister of National Defence of the German Democratic to tight and to win' spirit sited as one man from North
South and habouring the same hatred for the enemy have won big victories in their war against U.S. aggression, who have been fighting so valiantly greater successes in for national salvation... You aggression of the U.S. imperialists." have skilfully developed the strength of people's war. In the immense sea of this war, the U.S. aggressors are facing annihilation.

Defence of the Czechoslovak
Socialist Republic, wrote in
his message, "On this occasion, we sincerely wish the
armed forces of the heroic
Vietnamese people more brilliant and greater successes in ... The Chinese people and People's Liberation reopies Liberation Army, steeled by the great proletarian cultural revolution, resolved to follow Chairman Mao's teach-ings and to hold more aloft the international proletarian banner, will help with might and main and an unshakable will the anti-U.S. struggle • In his June 28 message to General Vo Nguyen Giap, Minister of National Defence

of the D.R.V.N., P. Pzhunov, Minister of National Defence Mistonal Defence Bulgaria, stated: "For these American air pirates, this will be their last flight over North Viet Nam. This is not to the U.S. agressors but not on the U.S. agressors but also a positive proof of the fighting capacity of A.A. depthing capacity of A.A. depthinist of the U.S. armed units of the D.R.Y.N. brother Vietnamese people till

• In a letter addressed on June 28 to General Vo Nguyen Giap, D.R.V.N. Vice-Premier and Minister of National Defence, General e The message of General J. Lhagwauren, Defence Minister of the People's Republic of Mongolia, said: "The officers and soldiers of the People's Army and all the People's Army and all the People's Army and all the heartedly support the heroic and rightous struggle of the Vietnamese People against the U.S. agressor." U.S. aggressors.

and the Vietnamese people have been inflicting due pun-• In its message to the ishment on the American imperialists' air pirates, suc-C.C. of the Viet Nam Fa-therland Front, the Hungarian cessfully resisting the savage bombings and all other acts Patriotic People's Front wrote, Viet Nam is today stronger of war against the D.R.V.N. than ever. She has been con-tinually receiving from the and showing their inexhaust-ible strength in the sacred struggle against U.S. aggresheather socialist countries brother socialist countries more and more important military and political aids to support her in her national war." sion, for national salvation to defend North Viet Nam, liberate South Viet Nam,

 Khamtay Siphadon, representative of the Lao Libersentative of the Lao Liberation People's Army High Command, wrote in his message, "The fact that the armed forces and people of North Viet Nam downed the 3,000th U.S. plane just after the American vilers declared that the downing of the American pering blow dealt at the green plow dealt at the twentils scheme and manouter this test three a strong view; this test three a strong vre; this feat threw a strong light on the U.S. air force's ignominious failure confrontation with the powerful people's war.

· At its recent extraordinary session to welcome the victory of the North Vietnamese people, the Afro-Asian-Latin American Solidarity Organisation pas-sed a message to Presi-dent Ho Chi Minh. The message read, "This tresh exploit constituted a victory of spe-cial significance in the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people and all peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America. It is the best reply to the wiched aggression and cynical schemes of the U.S. imperialists."

Many U.S. air pirates shot down during their criminal raids on North Viet Nam, have expressed their gratitude for the humane treatment given

The following impressions come from John Peter Flynn, Colonel of the U.S. Air Force, Colones of the O.S. Arr Force, F.R. 15760A, born 1922 in Ohio, pilot of a Korat (Thai-land) -based F.105D and shot down over Hanoi on October

and torn; and finally, my right arm was wrenched making it useless. Thus, I could not perform even the simplest of tasks such as eating or relieving mysels without assistance.

The badly needed medical treatment started immediate-ly. I was given blood tests, my heart was checked and I was examined thoroughly by as many as 6 different doctors to include the Chief of Surge-

Captured U.S. Pilot Thanks Vietnamese People for Humane Treatment

N the 27th of October, I was shot down by a 85 mm gun about 10 miles west of Hanoi. I was in very difficult circumstances, since I was severely injured during the bail out.

My captors were, under-standably, not too happy with me. After all, "the U.S. bombing was illegal," we had never declared war on North Viet Nam. They also suffered the very justifiable rue of a very small nation being attacked by a much larger one, with no basis in international law for such an attack. Most important, they had been bombed incessantly for over 3 years For over 3 years they had watched their people maimed or killed by U.S. bombs; had seen homes damaged or destroyed; witnessed schools and hospitals levelled; and even some of their churches razed.

circumstances my captors had every justification for refusing me medical assist-ance. Indeed, they could have killed me. They did neither of these things. They took me to the hospital instead. The hospital, a very fine one, with modern facilities, was located in Hanoi. My injuries were extensive: my right thigh bone was fractured with both ends of the bone. protruding from the flesh: the left knee was useless

ry. There was no doubt in my mind that despite the fact that I was the enemy and had done their nation grievous barm I was receiving only the best of medical care, equal to any that would be received in the U.S. The nurses who attended to me were cheerful and competent, the doctors were consider ate and went to great length to ensure that I did suffer unnecessary pain. Even the guard helped me in a mane and well beyond that required by his duties. He actually fed me by his own hand when I was having difficulty in eating. I was truly amazed that these people, supposedly enemies, would supposedly enemies, would treat a captive with such consideration.

They performed a very difficult operation on my right leg, using the most modern of techniques. They actually inserted a meta pin in my thigh bone so that the leg would be sufficiently supported during the healing process. Post-oper-ative X. Ray revealed that the operation was a complete success. The surgeon had

bones. While the right leg was healing in its cast, they turned their attention to my left leg. This was a most (Continued base 7)

DEEDS, Mr JOHNSON

(Continued from page 1)

tob5-1966, on which the U.S. Command primed high Apper. Command primed high Apper. Produced its 1-point produced its 1-point program. This time American and world opinion man better informed. The White House more specific proposition. Mr Johnson said he would accept everything, abort of a accept everything, abort of the World. With Nam. "In other words, the men brought to office by M R JOHNSON is re-putedly very clever. At Baltimore, he lived up to his reputation. The bombings of the D.R.V.N., the intensiof the D.R.V.N., the intensi-ication of the war in South Viet Nam in 1965 had stirred great emotion in the United States and the world. Some-thing had to be done to soothe people's anguish. Mr Johnson had a triumpoard: American and international opinion was still Illiain some of Viet Nam's still ill-informed of Viet Nam's the men brought to office by problems, and neither American aggressiveness nor barbarthe Americans - Nguyen Cao Ky and his confederates was vet evident. For were to remain masters of South Viet Nam, the Vietmany people the problem ap-peared simple: peace being seriously threatened in Viet South Viet Nam, the Viet-namese people's opinion notwithstanding. Besides, the Americans made no bones of their will by supporting Nguyên Cao Ky in his savage Nam, it should first of all be ment having proclaimed its good intentions, the occasion should be seized to put an end repression of the Buddhists in 1966. to the war. Many thought that the Vietnamese people's struggle for their independ-The first dry-season counterence was of course a legitimate one, but their adversary had such powerful means at his disposal that persistence in

defending it would inevitably lead to the destruction of Vie

Nam. In those conditions,

couldn't it he better to avoid

gotiations without any pre-conditions" and then find other ways to attain the tar-

gets of independence, sover-

the approach to the problem was different. They saw their

define clearly their objectives.

It was Washington's aim to

lead world and American

nanoeuvring, to forget about

American aggression and put the aggressor and his victim

on the same looting. It mas

threats of destruction and

its hope that an easy victory could be obtained through

For the Vietnamese beoble

a destructive war through

ignty and unity?

offensive having come to a flop, Hanoi was bombed in the summer of 1966, dykes in North Viet Nam pounded, Soviet ships hit in the port of Haiphong, Reinforcements were poured into South Viet Nam at an accelerated tempo and the U.S. expeditionary forces soon numbered 400,000 men. Directly or indirectly, Washington continued its "peace" manoeuvres, atways on the equivocal basis of peace at the equivocal basis of peace at any price, without taking the least account of Viet Nam's indep ndence, and always relying on threats of destruction.

The year 1967 brought bitter towns and villages savagely bombed, and a continuous landing of American G.I.s.; for them the alternative was not disiliusions to the men in Washington on the military plane. The failure of the large-scale operations of the "war or peace" but "inde-pendence or servitude." What second dry season, Operation Junction City in particular, caused Johnson to jettison. A demand had become ever more were those proposals for "ne-gotiations without any pre-conditions" accompanied by violent bombings if not a caimperative in world opinion: an end to the bombing of North Viet Nam, an inmouflaged call to pure and simple surrender? dispensable condition for the To defend one's independa letter addressed to President Ho Chi Minh, Johnson clung ence, one's right to live, was the vital task. Thus the Ho Chi Minh, Johnson clung to the formula of "reciproc-ity." The letter reached Hanoi on the 10th of February, but on the 13th, important thing for the Vietnamese people was not to negotiate amidst bomb explosions or to engage in foggy "negotiations without any pre-conditions" but to without waiting for and to assert vigorously their fundamental national rights.

In his reply, President Ho Chi Minh made unequivocally clear the D.R.V.N.'s position: the first step towards must be a permanent unconditional end to bombing and all other war against the D.R.V.N. January 28, Mr. Nguyen Duy Trinh, the Foreign Minister of the D.R.V.N., had issued a statement in the same vein Johnson was put before his responsibilities.

threats of destruction and capitalizing on the desire for peace. Other people than the Vietnamese also smelt a rat. The New York Times of Of all American acts of aggression against Viet Nam the bombings of the D.R.V.N March 7, 1965 wrote: " Now the U.S. is trying to win in are the most unjustified and unjustifiable act, the mos that was gradually being lost in the South." international law, th most arrogant challenge to the socialist countries and the SINCE the Baltimore speech, the same scenario has been repeatedly used: every new war effort socialist countries and the peoples of the Third World. The D.R.V.N. cannot negotiate under the threats of bombs, or by Washington was coupled in the course of a mere pause which could be called off at with a new " peace offensive."
On July 28, 1965, Johnson reiterated his negotiation

any moment.

An unconditional end to the bombing is for the Amer-ican government an order which could easily be carried proof of its will to negotiate.

Acts of peace are required, not

empty discourses. Ever since

1950 the United States has been multiplying acts of ag-gression against the Vietnam-ess people: the latter could not be expected to believe the fine words coming from the White House.

U.S. escalation continued. In February 1967,
American artillery began pounding D.R.V.N. territory over the demilitarized zone at the 17th parallel. But the military situation grew from bad to worse for the Americans and pressure from world public opinion became stronger: in September, Johnson made a speech at San Antonio, Texas, in which he carefully maintained an equivocal stand about the ransom the D.R.V.N. would have to pay if the bombing was to end. The D.R.V.N. government, through declarations by Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh on December 29, 1967 then February 8, 1968, dispelled all ambiguity. The general offensive, military and political, launched by the people's forces of South Viet Nam in February and March Nam in February and March supplied glaring evidence of American military impotence. In March, Senator MacCarthy obtained 42% of the votes in the New Hampshire presidential primaries, Senator Robert presidential candidate General

Westmoreland was recalled. Beset with difficulties on every side, on March 31, Johnson announced a " limited bombing of the North" and invited the D.R.V.N. government to appoint represen-tatives to discuss a total end to the bombing.

What followed everyone knows: Johnson going back almost immediately on his word about the choice of a meeting place; intensification of the bombing on part of the territory of the D.R.V.N. more money voted in Wash ington for the war; sending of more troops to South Viet Nam; obstinate refusal by the White House to order an end to the bombing of D.R.V.N.

ONCE again, Mr John-son has given proof of his cleverness. A partial end to the bombing made it possible for him to ease the pressure of world and American public opinion, obtain more money and more troops for the war, while American aircraft could con-centrate their strikes on a limited area to make them nimical area to make them more efficient and murderous. But this manoeuwre was also confession of failure, explicitly recognised by the Wall Street Journal as early as the 28th of February.

Clever speeches are not enough, Mr Johnson, People everywhere in the world are expecting deeds from you, and one particular deed to begin with : an unconditional end to

of war against the D.R.V.N. You said before Congress on March 15, 1965

"I want to be the President
who helped to end halred
among the people of all races
and all regions and all parties.
I want to be the President
who helped to end war among the brothers of this earth."

You have a unique, irreblace able occasion for translating those noble words into deeds. I say to you: no hombing will bend the will of our peo-ple; on this side there is no more hope for you.

You and your shokesmen American soldiers in South Viet Nam. You won't save them by going on bombing the North. Read this letter which Kenneth W. Bagby. an American G.I., sent to his folks in Winchester, Virginia, following the first engagements in mber 1965:

"The many men that died, will never forget. The odor f blood and decayed bodies, I will never forget. I will never be the same, never, never, never ... If I am not silled will come out insane... The friends I lost, the many bodies carried back to the helicot ters to be lifted out, I will never forget."

The young Americans you sent to Viet Nam are also waiting for acts of peace from

NGUYEN KHAC VIEN

CAPTURED U.S. PILOT...

(Continued from page 6)

difficult problem since it involved repairing muscle and tendon rather than setting bones. They also had the choice of no operation at all. The tendons and muscles would eventually heal to a degree, permitting me to walk, but I would never have full normal use of the leg and thus would be a cripple for the rest of my

Once again they demonstrated their humanity and compassion. Despite the fact that the hospital was crowded and very busy with casualties from U.S. actions, they elected to operate, using tendons from other parts of my leg to bolster the torn knee. This most difficult operation was perform-ed with complete success. It will restore my legs to normal conditions, permitting me to perform all activities, a most precious gift to give one's enemy. They had every reason to do a bare minimum. yet I am certain that their own people would not have received better attention and treatment.

There were other things

that also left a deep impression. When I first entered the hospital I had no appetite. As a result, my strength was failing fast. No effort was spared to get me to eat. I was asked what kind of food I liked the best. The food was prepared and served in a most appetizing manner. When this did not work, they

procured fruits in order to start me eating. Much food was wasted that they could ill afford to waste. I am certain that I was fed much better than their own popu lation.

Another matter was medi cine. There was an overall shortage of medicines chiefly as a result of U.S. bombin Despite the fact that I was a pilot who had participated in raids against them, I received massive doses of Penicillin and any other drug needed to speed my recovery. I am certain that medicines are in short supply that is carefully rationed, yet it was given

There were many other smaller, but equally revealing kindnesses. For example, very gentle handling of my injured limbs when the handling could have been rough and most painful. A smile of encouragement given instead of a frown. After a particu-larly painful session as a result of a necessary move a without a word. The look which accompanied this most thoughtrul gift spoke for itself. It was these many large, and smaller, kindnesses that convinced me of the true humaneness and genuine compassion of the Vietnamese

Most of this must not have come easy for them. I am certain that most of them had lost friends or relatives had homes damaged or de stroyed or children evacuated to the countryside. All of them were suffering daily inconve-niences as a result of our attacks. I was told that the doctor who had performed the operation on me thought and hard before he personal feelings, but somehow

managed to let his humanity

This was the good weather period and we suffered through many air raids and alerts. Each time the siren blew it interrupted the busy work schedule at the hospital. I would lie in my bed and liste to the hospital personnel's calm and cheerful voices as they went to the shelter. It apparent that no amount pressure could change their determination to see job through. After each raid there was no change in their attitude toward me, no matter how severe the damage. I soon found myself praying for the safety of the cities' inhabitants and for the bombings to stop.

I am deeply grateful for the humane and competent treatment that I have received from the North Vietnamese people and for this opportunity to express my appreciation. I now wish even more fervently that the hombings would stop, negotiations commence so the war could come to an end, permitting the people of Viet Nam to get on with the job of building their nation. From what I have observed about this humanity, compassion, dedication and sense of purpose, it should be a fine nation, a nation in which children can be raised in peace."

TO THE READER

We are aware that there we are aware that there is much room for improve-ment in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more

reiterated his negotiation offer while announcing the

sending of 50,000 more G.I.s. In December, Haiphong,

Military Operations

KHE SANH AND NORTH-ERN PART OF QUANG TRI PROVINCE

THE P.L.A.F. have been hammering at U.S. Marines now evacuating Rhe Sanh combat base. They have been combining their artillery and infantry in attacks against enemy positions and ambushes against his convoy on the eval of extent.

The same day, a convoy of 50 vehicles was intercepted with heavy of Highway No of the teres. The same of Highway No of the teres. Rao Quan and Ca Lu and a cannon parking ground at Lang Khoai was overrun: the enemy lost many men and a 105 mm cannon. Meanwhile, Hill 686 was assaulted by the P.L.A.F. who killed or wounded 130 G.I.s and downed 3 choppers. The battle was still raging on July 2.

The initial list of American losses at Khe Sanh in the week ending July 2 mentioned week control of the second of

In the sector east of Highway No 9, the P.L.A.F. gave battle to the enemy

at Cus Viet and north of Dong Ha on June 26, 27 and 28 and inflicted on him 160 casualties, burnt 2 cargo-boats and 2 depots (at Cus Viet) and damaged U.S. patrol boat No 2008 near the 17th parallel.

Giai Phong Press Agency has given details of the bombardment of Dong Ha on June 20: 400 G.Ls killed or wounded, 12 depots, about one hundred vehicles, 3 cranes, 6 aircraft including a C.130 transport, 8 ordnance pieces destroyed or damaged. The U.S. Marine Division 3 H.Q. was hit.

On June 17 and 18, a small artillery unit of the P.L.A.F. put out of action 150 G.Ls by repeatedly shelling the enemy at Con Tien and Bai Son.

SAIGON AND PERIPHERY

N June 29, the P.L.A.F. fired rockets on many targets such as police stations, G.I. garrisons in Saigon (6th district) or in the northwest suburbs. It was the 32nd shelling of Saigon since May 5.

The same day, at Ba Dlem, 16km north of the city, the P.L.A.F. closed in upon an American unit and inflicted on it 200 casualties.

They won a brilliant victory in Diah Quan region, Sokm northeast of Saigon, on Road No 20 from Saigon on Road No 20 from Saigon and the Control of the Contr



Is this G.I. thinking of his "mission of defending freedom" in South Viet Nam?



forcement were violently attacked and had z-battalions decimated; the enemy gun emplacements in the locality were silenced by P.L.A.F. shellings.

On June 23, a convoy of 10 U.S. river craft supported by aircraft was intercepted by the P.L.A.F. at 30km southeast of Saigon June 23: 6 vessels set afire.

Ben Luc bridge, the biggest in the Mekong Delta, 25km southwest of Saigon, was blown up by the guerillas who thus cut off Highway No 4 linking Saigon to the rich rice-producing provinces in South Viet Nam.

SOUTHEAST of Da Nang, the H.Q. of Division Americal at Tam Ky town was bombarded at

O hour on June 23 and a big fire broke out with flames going up 200 metres high. A bridge near the town was also shelled: 2 vessels were damaged.

At Da Nang, the building housing an enemy military organ was mined on June 29: 29 enemy troops killed including a colonel and two lieutenant colonels.

A PUBLIC ADMISSION OF U.S. STRATEGY'S FIASCO

(Continued from page 1)

its defence network, a posi-tion worth defending at all costs, as USIS remarked costs, as USIS remarked on Feb. 15, 1968. Yet, the embarrassment of the enemy at Khe Sanh only worsened. While the 6,000 U.S. Marines were pinned down in valley, fighting raged in Hue, Da Nang and the costal fringe of the province of the First Tactical Zone. Moreover, as the BBC commented June 28, 1968, 40,000 other G.I.'s were tied down in areas close to Khe Sanh, because they had to stand ready at all times to come to the rescue of the entrenched camp. The inevitable outcome of such a state of passivity increased sustained by the U.S. troops in this sector. In its June 16, 1968 issue, the Los Angeles Times revealed that twoin South Viet Nam in this period were suffered by those units stationed in the First Tactical Zone, that is, the Marines, the air cavalrymen and the paratroops of the 101st Division.

The attacks and popular uprisings in the urban centres inally tipped the balance of forces in a decisive fashion at the expense of the aggressors and their puppets. While the P.L.A.F. grow rapidly in

force and were in a position to give battle anywhere and anytime, the enemy forces found themselves spread thinner than ever before over the whole territory. The shortage of man-power become painful for the U.S. Command, especially the mobile forces and strategic reserves, and threatened them with collapse. This was what prompted its decision to evacuate Khe Sash.

...BUT GETTING OUT IS A FAR WORSE SETBACK

Nordering the withdrawal from Khe Sanh, the enemy bublicly administration of the control of the

Militarily, the evacuation of Khe Sanh broke the "an-chor" which held, to the West, the U.S. defence set up in northern Quang Tri. Just as a small breach is to cause the loss of a whole section of dyke during a high tide, this withdrawal is to con-

siderably weaken the enemy defence line in this area and in the northern sector of South Viet Nam. According to an American paper, U.S. officers early this year were of the opinion that if the Marines withdrew from Khe Sanh, they would be able to stop only until they had reached... the China Sea.

evacuating Khe Sanh, the U.S. Command did everything it could to try to give a slip, surrepticiously, those who were beleaguing it. But in this, it did not succeed. Capitalizing on the disarray which seized the enemy troops, the P.L.A.F. increased their pressure. The inevitable disorder and the risks arising from this precipitated removal threaten to turn the U.S. retreat into a debacle. As a matter of fact, in a week since the evacuation began, at Khe Sanh 700 G.I.'s and puppet soldiers were killed or wounded, and large quantities of war material destroyed. An important part of the enemy forces are still unable to pull out in spite of a whole arm of choppers at the disposal of the Americans in South Viet Nam. Everything seems to indicate that for the latter, to leave the valley which has cost them much blood in this war is as difficult as to hold